by government in consultation with various stakeholders including state governments. Besides, Government has taken several steps to respond to climate change through a range of policies and programmes, which *inter-alia* include:-

i. ensuring energy conservation and improved energy efficiency in various sectors as well as setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

ii. promoting use of renewable energy

iii. power sector reforms and active renewable energy programme

iv. use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport

v. fuel switching to cleaner energy

vi. afforestation and conservation of forests

vii. promotion of clean coal technologies

viii. reduction of gas flaring

ix. encouraging Mass Rapid Transport system

x. environmental quality management for all sectors

India has also developed programmes relating to adaptation to climate variability, in the areas of agriculture, water resources, health and sanitation, forests and coastal zone infrastructure.

(c) and (d) India's Initial National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change submitted in 2004 has reported CO_2 equivalent emissions from all energy & industrial processes and agriculture sector were 69% and 28% respectively, in the year 1994.

Cleaning of Ganga river

2670. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to clean the river Ganga from Gomukh to Gangasagar;

(b) if so, whether Government has kept any record of its failure in this objective despite spending an amount of Rs. 960 crores on Ganga Action Plan initiated in 1985; and

(c) if so, the details of new technique to be used by Government this time which would make Ganga cleaning scheme successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase I was launched as a centrally funded scheme in 1985 with the objective of improving the water quality of the Ganga. Various pollution abatement works like Interception & Diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment

plants, low cost sanitation works, crematoria works, etc. were taken up. GAP Phase - II included the major tributaries of Ganga namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda, besides Ganga. GAP Phase II was merged with the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in December, 1996, An expenditure of Rs.837.40 crore has been incurred for river Ganga, and a sewage treatment capacity of 1025 million liters per day (mld) has been created so far under both the phases of the Plan.

Water quality monitoring carried out by reputed institutions such as, IIT, Kanpur, BHEL, Patna University, etc. indicates that, water quality of the river Ganga conforms to the prescribed standards in terms of key indicators, namely, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) at most of the locations, except in the stretch between Kannauj and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. However, the levels of fecal coliforms are reported to be exceeding the maximum permissible limit at a number of monitoring stations along the river Ganga.

The Central Government has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on 20th February, 2009 as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for conservation of the Ganga River with a holistic river basin approach. The Authority has both regulatory and developmental functions. Action has been initiated for preparation of a comprehensive Ganga river basin management plan which will form the basis for formulation of projects. States have been requested to prepare priority projects for critical pollution hotspots and major towns on Ganga and fast track the implementation of ongoing projects.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. River conservation activities such as creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal are also being implemented under other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under state schemes.

Tiger population

2671. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITEPATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which Government plans to increase the tiger population;

(b) the steps being taken to save the tigers from the poachers, State-wise;

(c) the number of tigers died due to illness/poaching during the last two years, till date; and

(d) the details of poachers arrested/sentenced during the above period, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals are given in the statement [Refer to the statement appeneded to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 2642 (a) to (f)]